

## Outreach and Education Awards

From youths to adults, an informed and supportive public is important to increasing recycling. This award category highlighted education programs targeting K-12 education institutions and/or youth organizations. Five awards were granted to recycling leaders in this category, and one individual was given honorable mention.

### Green Living Science



Green Living Science is recognized for recycling outreach and education to elementary students in Detroit Public Schools. Since 2007, Green Living Science has reached over 90,000 students. In 2015, 330 volunteers were recruited to help at an Earth Day event that reached 200 students. Green Living Science also converted and repurposed a shipping container to use as a class room at the Lincoln Street Art Park in Detroit. This classroom is a destination for class field trips to learn about recycling at the Recycle Here recycling center and the Art Park, which focuses on use of recycled/reused materials for art installations. For these reasons, Green Living Science is chosen to receive the Outstanding Education Award.



## The Ecology Center



The Ecology Center is recognized for providing recycling education since it launched one of the nation's first recycling programs in 1970. The Ecology Center is the parent organization for Recycle Ann Arbor, a community-based organization that provides recycling in homes and workplaces. Ecology Center education programs have played an active role in establishing a 50% recycling rate within Ann Arbor schools. Since the 1990s, the Ecology Center has contracted with the City of Ann Arbor to deliver classroom recycling education to more than 2500 students each year. Last year, 166 in-school recycling programs reached 3112 students in the Ann Arbor School District and educational tours of the Ann Arbor Materials Recovery Facility were provided for over 3000 individuals living in and around Southeast Michigan. In 2016, the Ecology Center is expanding access to in-school recycling education programs through a partnership with the City of Dearborn; a new after-school program at Ypsilanti Middle School; a series of family events at schools in Whitmore Lake, Milan, Dexter, and Dearborn; and a training program for volunteer educators in other communities. For these reasons, the Ecology Center is chosen to receive the Outstanding Education Award.



## Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA)



SOCRRA is recognized for providing education and tours to not only members of the twelve participating communities, but to any group that shows interest in learning about recycling. SOCRRA provides one hour educational tours to audiences such as K-12 and Community College Students, environmental clubs, senior citizens, and garden clubs. SOCRRA has developed a “Life of Recycling” exhibit to further participants understanding of the recycling process and a “Decomposition Timeline” to demonstrate how long it takes for materials to decompose if not recycled. Lastly, Earth Day, and America Recycles Day are celebrated with tours and activities at the material recovery facility, engaging hundreds of children and adults in recycling education. In addition to the efforts already summarized, SOCRRA provides education opportunities throughout the 12 member communities for any schools or groups/organizations that are interested. Through their efforts, SOCCRA reached approximately 2700 children and adults in 2015 in the 12 member communities and surrounding greater Detroit metropolitan area. For these reasons, SOCCRA is chosen to receive the Outstanding Education Award.





## Carpenter Year Round Elementary School



Carpenter Year Round Elementary School (Carpenter) is an excellent example of a school that has emphasized recycling and environmental education as an institutional priority. From the first day of Kindergarten, children begin their education in reducing waste. Special bins known as “Reuse Tubs” encourage students to reconsider if the material they are finished with is trash or could be reused. Fourth graders have a dedicated science unit covering garbage, landfills, and recycling. Annual Earth Day festivities include special educational teachings on the importance of the three R’s, with writing projects about recycling. Carpenter’s Elementary Student Council collects recyclable materials (traditional and nontraditional) from classrooms on a weekly basis, and incorporates “green” fundraising activities, such as the sale of products made from recycled materials. The school also maintains a cafeteria recycling program, special extracurricular activities/groups focused on the environment, recycling and reuse, and more. Carpenter educates approximately 460 students (ages 5-11) and also engages approximately 40 staff members. For these reasons, Carpenter Year Round Elementary School is chosen to receive the Outstanding Education Award at an institution.



## Bob Bowman, Inspirational Individual Awardee



Mr. Bob Bowman is recognized for his personal dedication and lifelong commitment to recycling education at Parkside Elementary School. Mr. Bowman was a champion for recycling at Parkside during the 35-years of his employment as a custodian, not only initiating the program, but engaging students to play an active role. Post-retirement (at the request of the students), he has continued to volunteer three days a week to work with students recycling at the school. Since 1975, Mr. Bowman has served as a mentor to countless students and encouraged recycling education through games, lunch with recycling buddies, and riddles while they recycle together. Students are recognized on a recognition board that shows their picture and the number of days served on the recycling team. Around a dozen children of former Parkside recyclers are now learning about recycling from Mr. Bowman, which shows his commitment to the program. Mr. Bowman is recognized as a role model and recycling champion by his peers and community, and for this reason he is chosen to receive the Inspirational Individual award under the Outreach Education Awards.



## Joanne Foerg, Inspirational Individual Honoree



Ms. Joanne Foerg is honored for her commitment to recycling and reuse within her community. Ms. Foerg is an active volunteer with the South Oakland Shelter where she promotes reuse through organizing donations to needy families. She also worked with preschoolers and their parents through a recycling curriculum to encourage recycling education and being good stewards of the earth. Ms. Foerg is recognized by her peers and community as a champion of recycling and reuse, and for this reason she is chosen to receive honorable mention as an Inspirational Individual under the Outreach Education Awards.

